

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at Newton Park Hotel, Newton Solney
on 20th May 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (**Vice-Chair**), Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), County Councillor Bill Routledge, District Councillor Heather Wheeler and District Councillor John Wilkins.

Other Public Sector

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(**Chair**), Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association), Andy Layzell (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust) and Paul McGregor (Derbyshire Learning Partnership).

Private Sector

Susan Bell (National Forest Company), Karen Bradley (Toyota UK), Sharon Forton (Southern Derbyshire Chamber) and George Tansley (Etete Limited).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Reverend Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau) and Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS).

Also in Attendance

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), Mark Alflat (Director of Community Services), Stuart Batchelor (Community and Leisure Development Manager), Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and Debbie Cook (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Jane Cox (Best Value and Policy Officer).

LSP/32. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from David Bond (Connexions Derbyshire), County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Jeff Dolby (Environment Agency), Graham Keddle (Nottingham East Midlands Airport), Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Royal Community Council), Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association) and Maria Hallam (Government Office for the East Midlands).

LSP/33. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 18th March 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

With regard to Minute No. LSP/26 relating to the Derbyshire-wide Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations, Jo Smith of the South Derbyshire CVS advised that the Consortium for Derbyshire and Derby City had now been formed but funds were still awaited to enable work to commence.

LSP/34. **DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No. LSP/24 of 18th March 2004, it was reported that a series of Working Groups had been held between 16th April and 11th May 2004 to explore the themes in more detail. The District Council had organised the arrangements for the Meetings and invitations were despatched to Board Members, key stakeholders and those individuals who had previously expressed an interest in attending at the Forum Annual General Meeting.

The Lead Members for each group outlined the deliberations at their respective Meetings and notes of the discussions at the Working Groups had been circulated to Board Members. The format of the Meetings was outlined and stakeholders had also been requested to forward the results of any other public consultations undertaken by their respective organisations, together with relevant copies of plans and strategies. Some of this information was awaited.

The purpose of the Meetings was to scope those issues and actions which may be appropriately addressed by the Community Strategy and to focus, for each theme, on the main priorities. It should not be the intention of the Community Strategy to repeat plans, strategies or service plans of existing organisations/partners. Instead, attention should be paid to those actions and issues where 'added value' could be given or new actions could be undertaken involving partnership working.

The timetable was now very tight and an extensive period of public consultation would be necessary during the summer which was likely to result in the draft strategy being amended to reflect the local communities' aspirations and priorities. In this context, it was felt that targets and actions would be better addressed after the draft had been subject to consultation and possible change.

The conclusions of each Working Group were outlined to the Board, as follows:-

(a) Lifelong Learning and Culture

This embraced education, including non-accredited learning, leisure and sport, arts, heritage and the library service. Learning should be promoted as a lifelong process and must be in a position to offer a high quality of learning and recreational/cultural facilities to residents of the District.

The suggested key aim/vision was 'more opportunities for local people to take part in learning and cultural activities'. The priorities concerned developing activities and facilities for local people and encouraging learning.

(b) Creating Opportunities for All

The scope focussed around equal opportunities, values, diversity, social inclusion, community involvement and capacity building. Improved communication and consultation were considered to be central to achieving these ends. A better understanding and audit of local diversity and equal opportunities

was required, leading to the consistent application and delivery of agreed equal opportunities and race equality policies.

The suggested key aim/vision was 'fairer, more inclusive and self reliant communities'. The priorities concerned improving communication and consultation and valuing diversity.

(c) Safe Communities

As well as crime and disorder issues, including anti-social behaviour, the Group also considered wider public protection issues embracing flooding, harassment, reassurance and victim support. Private sector/business community engagement was again considered important across all themes. The main areas of action concerned the need for cross-agency working to increase public assurance by tackling anti-social behaviour and the redirection of resources to perceived low level enforcement actions (nuisance, litter, dog fouling etc).

The suggested key aim/vision was 'a safer South Derbyshire in which to live, work and visit'. Priorities concerned enforcing low level legislation and tackling anti-social behaviour.

(d) Healthier Communities

The scope of this theme included the broad base of health, social and emotional wellbeing, including service provision, protection and preventative issues especially relating to children and older people, road safety, domestic violence and child abuse. Drug, alcohol and substance misuse also had health implications together with crime and disorder issues. Business sector involvement was considered to be crucial. The thrust of legislation and activities focussed on intervention and access to services, whilst there was a general health thrust towards earlier intervention and tackling the determinants of health. There were numerous groups, organisations and actions being undertaken but a lack of co-ordinated central information. Influencing healthier lifestyles appeared paramount.

The suggested key aim/vision was 'healthier and supportive communities'. Priorities concerned taking care of your health and supporting vulnerable people.

(e) A Vibrant Economy

With an economic base dominated by small businesses and a predominantly out-commuting workforce, the Group focused on the need to create further employment opportunities within the District through support to the local business community, capitalising on the development of the National Forest and the Nottingham East Midlands Airport, and securing more inward investment.

The suggested key aim/vision was 'better jobs and prospects for local people and businesses'. Priorities concerned understanding and developing the local business community and securing inward investment.

(f) A Sustainable Environment

This theme was perhaps the most difficult due to its complex and wide-ranging nature, from bio-diversity to global warming, encompassing renewable energy/energy efficiency, increased use of public space, waste minimisation, environmental management, equitable housing services, land quality and

appearance, sustainable transport and pollution etc. A wide range of agencies were involved in protecting and enhancing the District's environment but it was clear that there was no single overall environmental focus either in the form of a strategy or group that could form the basis for common co-ordinated action. It was also felt that there was a general lack of public understanding of environmental matters. Overall, it was considered that the District had a quality product (its landscape and diversity) which must be improved and protected.

The suggested key aim/vision was 'a more sustainable environment'. Priorities concerned the development of a joined-up approach to environmental issues and improving public spaces.

Paul McGregor of the Derbyshire Learning Partnership expressed his disappointment that the Learning and Skills Council had not been represented at the Lifelong Learning and Culture Working Group and the Chair of the Board agreed to pursue reasons for this absence. The Chair also emphasised that the Working Groups need not consist only of Board Members and the Groups would eventually produce Delivery Action Plans when the Strategy was established. It would be helpful if each sector was represented on every Working Group and it was noted that the Groups would be reconvened in due course to discuss the consultation mechanisms.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted and the priorities outlined above be approved as the basis for the Draft Strategy.

LSP/35. **BUSINESS PLAN SUBMISSION TO THE DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Further to Minute No. LSP/27 of 18th March 2004, it was reported that the Business Planning Group had met early in May and had produced a proposal for funding which had been circulated to Board Members. The criteria which governed the allocation of the funding was outlined and due to the short timescale in which the Group had to produce proposals, projects submitted were identified on Expressions of Interest forms to the DDEP that met the criteria. The Group had also networked with key organisations to identify other projects that could deliver the required economic outputs on a strategic basis. Board Members considered several projects that the Group felt could be delivered within the timescale, would deliver required outputs and would be considered by the Board as most relevant to the Partnership's ambitions. Three additional bids were also tabled at the Meeting for consideration.

It was felt that the Business Planning Group should reconvene to consider all bids now submitted and that each sector should be represented on the Group.

RESOLVED:-

That the Business Planning Group be requested to reconvene to consider all bids submitted and one representative from each sector be invited, with the remaining Board Members also being notified of the arrangements.

LSP/36. **LEARNING AND SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14 TO 19**

It was reported that Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council had issued a joint statement for consultation on learning and skills for young people between the ages of 14 to 19, which was launched at the recent Pathfinder Conference. A response was required by 28th May 2004 and much of the statement was based on those organisations' vision for secondary education, which was developed as part of a bid for 'Building Schools for the Future' and in preparation for the Strategic Area Review process previously reported to the Board. Board Members considered a copy of the statement together with several questions requiring a response.

RESOLVED:-

That the following comments be made on the consultation document:-

- (1) The principle should reflect "appropriate" training options.***
- (2) It is felt that the vision is too long.***
- (3) The model seems to be restricted to traditional learning organisations and some of the partnerships mentioned no longer exist.***
- (4) The vision for new centres of learning is agreed.***
- (5) The new curriculum should be designed to meet developing needs of employers and the business sector.***
- (6) Funding should support sufficient non-accredited learning to provide an opportunity for all individuals to access improved employment opportunities.***
- (7) The LSP Board may possibly be prepared to sign a document supporting the Strategy, subject to the concerns raised being reflected in the final document.***

LSP/37. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

- (a) Nottingham East Midlands Airport – Employment Network Manager

George Tansley of Etete Limited advised that Nottingham East Midlands Airport had recently advertised for the post of Employment Network Manager, aimed at working with employers, communities, colleges, EMDA etc. and it was felt that this post would provide a useful link into the local labour sources.

- (b) Workshop on Social Enterprise

Jo Smith of South Derbyshire CVS advised that the CVS was currently planning a workshop on social enterprise and queried whether Board Members felt it should be broadened under the LSP banner from the voluntary sector only. This view was supported by Board Members.

- (c) Use of Anglican and Methodist Churches in South Derbyshire

Reverend Bob Hollings of Churches Together advised that Anglican and Methodist Churches in South Derbyshire were intending to become closer, which would provide an opportunity for the use of the buildings by the local community. In this regard, he reported that premises in Newhall had already been vacated in connection with the issue.

(d) Strategic Housing Forum – 25th May 2004

The District Council's Director of Community Services advised that a Strategic Housing Forum would be held on 25th May 2004 to consider the housing needs in the area. Board Members had been invited to the event, which would include a presentation by the Housing Services Manager on future stock options. The Government was keen to consult LSPs on this issue and Board Members were encouraged to attend accordingly.

LSP/38. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TRAINING**

It was reported that this training session for Board Members would be organised shortly.

LSP/39. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that it was necessary to revise dates of future meetings to accommodate the preparation of the Community Strategy. Future Meetings were now proposed as follows, at 9.30 a.m.:-

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Board Meeting	24th June 2004
Forum Meeting	22nd July 2004
Board Meeting	19th August 2004
Board Meeting	21st October 2004
Board Meeting	4th November 2004
Forum Annual General Meeting	9th December 2004

Arrangements had been made for the Forum Meetings to be held at the Mickleover Court Hotel. The Board Meeting on 24th June 2004 would be held at the Newton Park Hotel and thereafter, Board Meetings would be held at the Sharpe's Pottery and Visitor Centre, Swadlincote.

RESOLVED:-

That the revised arrangements for future meetings be approved.

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 11.25 a.m.